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A Look at Andrew J. Miller

Teresa Spillane

History 300

Dr. Warlick

February 24, 1977

In 1863 Andrew J. Miller was owner and manager of A. J. Miller & Company - cabinet makers and undertaker which changed to a furniture store in 1871. Mr. Miller and his associates applied in 1875 for a charter incorporating them as a body under the name of Merchants and Mechanics Mutual Loan Company. On December 30, 1878, Andrew Miller declared bankruptcy in the District Court - the extent of this bankruptcy is unknown.

He was a member of Trinity Methodist Church, served as a fireman, and served as a director on the Home Insurance Co., Georgia Mutual Loan Association, and Merchants and Mechanics Mutual Loan Company boards. In 1852 Andrew J. married Elizabeth Fourshly and fathered six children, Meeker T., Clayton P., R.E.L, Jefferson, Georgia E. and Walter Paramore - four of which survive to adulthood. Between the years 1864 to 1873, Miller's first wife dies and in 1876 he marries Mrs. Lucinda Trotty. Between the years 1888 to 1891 Andrew Miller either leaves Savannah or dies.

OUTLINE

I. Businesses

A. A.J. Miller and Company

1. Cabinet maker and Undertaker 1863 - 1871
2. Furniture Store 1871 - 1891

B. Merchants and Mechanics Mutual Loan Company.

C. Business Associates

1. Clayton P. Miller: left business in 1891
2. R. E. L. Miller: opened branch store in Atlanta
3. Jefferson Miller: manager of store in 1891

D. Business Problems

1. Swindled in 1869
2. Bankrupt in 1878

II. Civic Activities

A. Board Membership

- 1 Home Insurance Company of Savannah 1866 - 1867
2. Merchants and Mechanics Mutual Loan Company 1875
3. Georgia Mutual Loan and Building Association 1874, 1875 and 1878

B. Appointments

1. Arm - bearing Board
2. Committee of Enrollment for Taxpayers
3. City Fireman
4. Grand Jury 1878
5. Georgia Historical Society

III. Family Life

A. Family

1. Elizabeth Fourshly: first wife
2. Walter Paramore died 1864

3. Meeker T. died 1873

B. Family Events

1. Georgia E. married 1882

2. Mrs. Lucinda Trotty: second wife

3. Miller disappears 1888

Andrew J. Miller first appears in the Daily Morning News on January 1, 1863 with an advertisement for his business, A.J. Miller and Company - Cabinet Maker and Undertaker.¹ This business in 1871 changes to A.J. Miller and Company, Furniture Dealer.² On January 6, 1875, he and his associates applied for a charter incorporating them as a body under the name of Merchants and Mechantics Mutual Loan Company.³

During the period 1863 through 1891, Mr. Miller's furniture business flourished and three of his sons, Clayton P. , R.E.L. , and Jefferson went into business with him. On August 8, 1878, Andrew went on a buyer's trip and left his son Clayton in charge of the business.⁴ As Mr Miller's business grew he opened a branch of the furniture store in Atlanta, and his son R.E.L. was made manager.⁵ At the time of his disappearance in 1891, his son Jefferson was manager of the store and Clayton P. had left the business.⁶

Although Mr. Miller was a successful businessman, in 1869 he was swindled out of maney by Simeon R. O'Neill⁷ and in 1878 he was forced to declare bankruptcy.⁸

Andrew Miller was a very civic minded individual, and it showed in the various organizations he belonged to. He served on the board of directors of the Home Insurance Company of Savannah in 1866 and 1867⁹ and on the board of the Merchants and Mechantics Mutual Loan Company in 1875¹⁰ In addition he was on the board of the Georgia Mutual Loan and Building Association in 1874, 75, & 78. The mayor appointed Miller on August 5, 1863 on the board to superintend the formation of arm-bearing residents into companies and to see to the election of officers for the defense of their homes.¹² Mr. Miller was also appointed to

1. Anals of Savannah, Savannah Newspaper Digest, Vol. 14 part 1, 1863 page 4

2. Ibid., 1871, Vol. 20 page 14

3. Ibid., Vol. 25, 1875 page 58

4. Ibid., Vol. 29 part 2 page 876

5. Ibid., Vol. 38 part 2 page 88

6. Ibid., Vol. 41 page 250

7. Ibid., Vol. 20 page 169

8. Ibid., Vol. 29 part 1 page 76

9. Ibid., Vol 17 part 1 page 363 and Vol. 18 part 1 page 258

10. Ibid., Vol 25 page 44

11. Ibid., Vol. 24 page 44, Vol. 25 page 57, and Vol. 29 page 59

12. Ibid., Vol. 14 page 165

the committee of Enrollment for Taxpayers.¹³ On July 19, 1875 he was exempt from jury duty because of his service as a city fireman¹⁴ but Andrew did serve on the February term of the Grand Jury in 1878.¹⁵ Mr. Miller was also a charitable man and his charity can be found through a donation he made to the Improvement Fund of the Trinity Methodist Church on July 31, 1876.¹⁶ On April 5, 1887 Miller was elected as a member of the Georgia Historical Society.¹⁷

Andrew J. Miller married Elizabeth Fourshly on August 18, 1852¹⁸ and they had six children, Meeker T., Clayton P., R.E.L., Jefferson, Georgia E., and Walter Paramore. Two of their six children died during childhood, Walter Paramore on September 5, 1864¹⁹ and Meeker T. on March 22 1873²⁰ and were buried in Laurel Grove Cemetary with their grandfather, Andrew J. who died in October, 1862.²¹ Mrs. Elizabeth Miller died between 1864 to 1873 although no definate date of death or burial site could be found. Of the four surviving children, three do marry in particular Georgia E. who married Mr. Louis w. Thomas of Atlanta on March 30, 1882 at the home of her father.²² Before his only daughter married, Andrew married Mrs. Lucinda Trotty at Andrew Chapel on March 15 , 1876.²³ Andrew J. Miller disappears from the newspapers in 1888 and in the 1891 edition of the Savannah News list Jefferson Miller as manager of A.J. Miller and Company.²⁴

Whether Mr. Miller died in 1888 or left Savannah is not known, what is known is that Andrew J. Miller left a wife, and four children and a two story brick house with a mansard roof at 107 Perry Street That he built in 1872.²⁵

13. Annals of Savannah, Savannah Newspaper Digest, Volume 27, Page 666.

14. Ibid. Volume 14, Page 165.

15. Ibid. Volume 28, Page 234.

16. Ibid. Volume 27, Page 161.

17. Ibid. Volume 32, Page 525.

18. Marriage Licence, Volume 22's, 158(1851-1866).

19. Upcit., Volume 15 Part 1, Page 165.

20. Ibid. Volume 24, Page 207.

21. Ibid. Volume 13 Part 1, Page 302.

22. Ibid. Volume 33, Page 473.

23. Ibid. Volume 27, Page 633.

24. Ibid. Volume 42, Page 531.

25. Ibid. Volume 23, Page 87.

In researching this paper the main problem was finding information on Mr. Miller from the reference books given. Andrew J. Miller was not mentioned in 1880 census nor was his house on Perry Street. I also found it puzzling that the marriage to his first wife was not recorded in any of the marriage books at the Georgia Historical Society. I did find a Miller plot in the Laurel Grove Cemetary book listing. Three Millers are buried there, Andrew, Sr., Meeker T., and Walter Paramore in lot No. 973 but no mention of anyone else. When I went to Laurel Grove in search of Mr. Miller's grave, I found an empty lot with the relics of three tombstones. To compound the problem, Mr. Miller died without a will. In search through the Court House records, I could only find a will for Andrew's son Clayton P. . There are several avenues I failed to cover - birth records, tax digest, deeds- but I feel fairly certain that Mr. Miller came to Savannah from Orange County, New York as did his father. ²⁸

28. Found with the announcement of Andrew J. Miller, Sr. found in the Laurel Grove Cemetary Records.

Bibliography

_____, Annals of Savannah, Savannah Newspaper Digest, work Progress Administration, of Georgia No. 3724, 1937.

_____, Marriage Records, Office of the Ordinary, Chatham County Courthouse, 158 Volume 22's, 1851-1866.